

Global Kentucky

An Office of International Affairs newsletter that celebrates the University of Kentucky's international leadership.

Students are Coming and Going in Record Numbers

By Derrick Meads

The significant growth in UK's international education demonstrates UK President Eli Capilouto's commitment to "providing access for international students to seek their degrees at UK, allowing opportunities for our students to study abroad and immerse themselves in different cultures, and creating opportunities for faculty exchanges that enrich the academic and cultural fabric of our campus."

International students enrolled at UK has increased by 13 percent, while the number of international undergraduates has increased by 27 percent.

Additionally, the number of UK students who enrolled in an Education Abroad program during the 2011-12 academic year increased by 39 percent.

The growth in the numbers of students coming and going also reflects how the Office of International Affairs is serv-



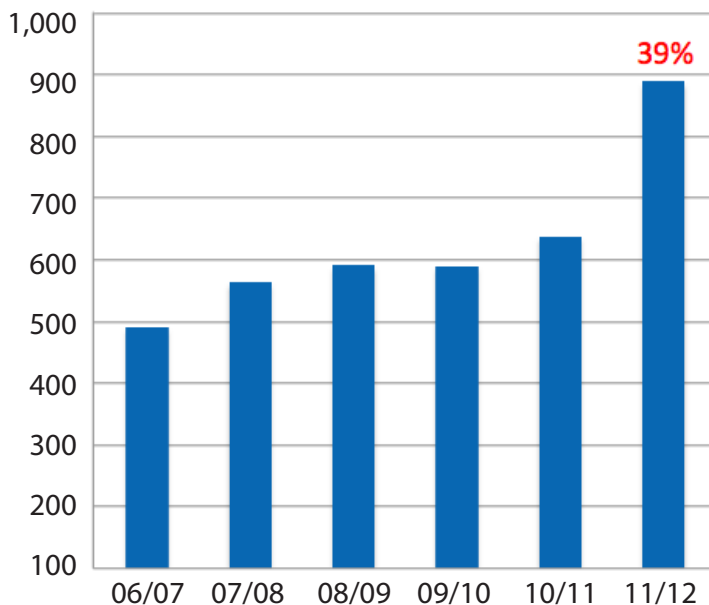
International students meet and greet at the K Week International Ice Cream Social.

ing the UK community by facilitating the interaction of global students and scholars, according to Susan Carvalho, associate provost for international programs. "We not only create diverse op-

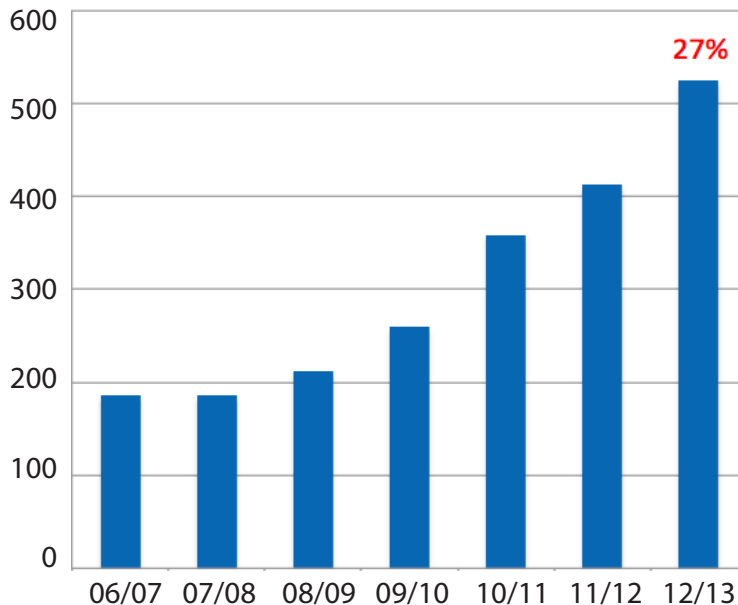
portunities for global experiences, but also promote the involvement of UK faculty and students in the international community of scholars to investigate and solve global problems."

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Students enrolled in EA programs



International undergraduate fall enrollment



Education Abroad develops two new grant opportunities

By Derrick Meads

Education Abroad in the University of Kentucky Office of International Affairs is offering two new grant opportunities for graduate students and faculty members.

“We are partnering in new and exciting ways with our graduate students for the on-going assessment of student learning abroad,” says Anthony Ogden, director of Education Abroad. “Recent research shows that it is no longer enough just to send students abroad, but we have to intentionally design programs that lead to measurable outcomes.”

Education Abroad Outcomes Assessment Research Grants – Graduate Students

To support graduate students whose research focuses on U.S. education abroad the ‘Education Abroad Outcomes Assessment Research Grants’ will be awarded annually. Applicants must be enrolled in a UK degree-granting graduate or professional program and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

For additional details about applying for an Outcomes Assessment Research Grant, visit: www.uky.edu/education-abroad/financial_aid/research_grants.html

With regard to Education Abroad’s new Faculty-Led Program Development Grant, Susan Carvalho, associate provost for international programs said, “This new funding opportunity is another innovative commitment by Education Abroad to integrate international study into UK’s majors and the UK Core. UK faculty members are increasingly engaged in international education programming and recognize the need to educate world-ready graduates who have first-hand experience and knowledge of the world beyond our nation’s borders.”

Program Development Grants - Faculty

Program Development Grants are available to faculty to support international travel for the purpose of establishing a faculty-led education abroad program. Applicants must be eligible to receive at least 25 percent matching funds (e.g., cash or in-kind contributions) from their college/department or external funding sources.

For additional details about the Program Development Grants visit: www.uky.edu/educationabroad/faculty/faculty_led.html

Embedded Education Abroad Faculty Toolkit

By Derrick Meads

Education Abroad in the University of Kentucky Office of International Affairs has developed a new online “toolkit” for faculty members who are interested in embedding international education experiences into their otherwise residential courses: www.uky.edu/toolkit.

The development of this tool underscores that UK’s Education Abroad office is doing more than just connecting students with existing programs. The team is actively partnering with faculty to advance the quality of UK’s academic programming abroad. Thus the toolkit fills an important role, and has the potential to become a key resource for Education Abroad offices and faculty nationwide.

Each tool is explained in a one-page document that provides a brief description of its objectives, required materials and recommended method of evaluation. Faculty members are invited to adapt selected tools to align with their course objectives. While these tools

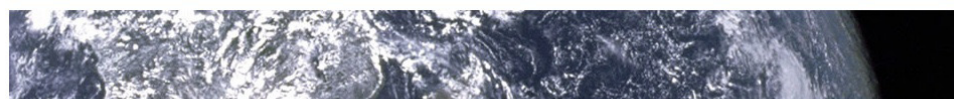
UK EDUCATION ABROAD FACULTY TOOLKIT

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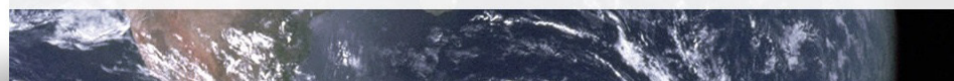
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www.uky.edu/toolkit

have been prepared for embedded education abroad programming, they are easily adapted to suit the needs and goals of any education abroad program.

“The development of this tool shows that our Education Abroad office is doing much more than just connecting students with existing programs. Our team is actually partnering with faculty to advance the quality of academic programming abroad,” says Susan Carvalho, associate provost for interna-

tional programs. “This toolkit fills a very important role and has the potential to become an important resource for Education Abroad offices and faculty nationwide.”

The toolkit will be updated and expanded through the on-going development and input of faculty. Please explore the toolkit and share any suggestions or insights with Anthony Ogden, director of education abroad: a.ogden@uky.edu. ■

Students are welcomed at K Week International

By Derrick Meads

Imagine having just a week to furnish a new apartment, set up a new phone service, fill out extensive and detailed paperwork, and register for classes in a foreign country where you have never been before. This is the challenge international students face when they first arrive in Lexington from their home countries.

Students come to UK from over 117 different countries, such as Oman, China, India, Saudia Arabia, and Nigeria.

To help ease this complex transition the International Student and Scholar Services unit (ISSS) in the Office of International Affairs held K Week International from Aug. 13 -17. The week includes check-in workshop, orientations, advising conferences, and fun events such as the welcome fair, shopping trips, an ice cream social and a session about living in the U.S. that includes free pizza.

CESL student Emre Aykutlug from Turkey, and Industrial Engineering major Álvaro Sanz Lázaro from Spain, describe their experiences during K Week International: "UK is a very hospitable place. From our arrival in Lexington everyone we met helped ease our transition, and made everything much easier. At first it was difficult, but after meeting people from so many different countries we felt very integrated into the UK community."

Elif Bengu, international student affairs advisor, works to help the students feel confident and secure throughout the steps of becoming a UK student. Bengu felt the event was successful due to the help of international student volunteers: "Volunteers who went through this same process know what students are experiencing and are instrumental in helping students stay on track with their transition, create new friendships and get involved."

One of Bengu's most dedicated volunteers, Thammapot "Thomas" Wattanapanalai from Thailand, who is studying civil engineering, describes why he



International students meet to learn about life in the U.S. at this year's first Cultural Coffee Hour.

chose to volunteer: "I came to Kentucky without any connections to the U.S., making it very difficult to find my way around. K Week International helped me find my way; this experience led me to become a volunteer. As a volunteer I have been able to help many new students become adjusted to this new culture. Many of the new students do not know where to buy books or find good restaurants, but volunteers like myself

can answer their questions and provide them with valuable information. For me, volunteering is very important and new students are thankful for my help."

ISSS provides leadership and expertise in the advising and immigration needs of more than 1,500 international students, manages global student and scholar interactions, and facilitates the well being of all international students, faculty, staff and scholars. ■

Courses chosen for "Global Classroom Connections"

By Sarah Geegan, Amanda Osborne

Arts and Sciences began using Global Classroom Connections in March to provide cross-cultural experiences and possibly even help develop friendships between students at UK and in other countries. Global Classroom Connections also allows faculty to collaborate with institutions outside of the U.S. through electronic links between courses.

During the spring semester, A&S faculty were asked to propose links between A&S courses and courses at institutions outside the U.S. Five courses were chosen for the first set of Global Classroom Connections courses.

Among them is a class taught by Ann Kingsolver, director of the Appalachian Center and the Appalachian Studies Program. Kingsolver proposed to link APP 200 at UK and a course at India's University of Delhi in a dual exploration of mountain and hill regions, specifically Appalachia and the Himalayas.

"I believe that every university student, not just those who are able to study abroad, should have the opportunity to learn through international collaboration with students in other countries," Kingsolver said. "During the spring of 2013, my Global Appalachia students at UK and professor Subhadra Channa's

Coming and Going (continued from pg. 1)

Coming - International Students

The increase in enrolled undergraduate international students is due to the strong partnership between the Office of Enrollment Management, led by Associate Provost Don Witt, and OIA's International Enrollment Manager Audra Cryder. According to Gary Gaffield, assistant provost for international partnerships, "Audra has been indefatigable in promoting the University of Kentucky and a true innovator in finding ways to reach international students through both traditional and new media. Thanks to Audra and to her work with social media, tens of thousands of prospective students are hearing why UK is a top choice for study in the USA. She travels constantly, meets hundreds of students each year, and is always finding new ways to reach out to them and show them why they should enroll at UK."

Since last October, for example, more than 70 Omani stu-

dents have begun studying at UK. Their presence has caused UK's international enrollment of Middle Eastern students to double, and is the positive result of a partnership cultivated by Cryder between the University of Kentucky and the Omani Ministry of Higher Education.

The country with the highest percentage of students attending UK are from China. This reflects UK's growing presence in China through partnerships with Shanghai University, Jilin University, Wuhan University and the China University of Mining and Technology, as well as the bridge-building work of the UK Confucius Institute. To capitalize on these opportunities Cryder is currently working with a team of Chinese students attending UK and Diane Shen, who represents UK in China, to develop new recruitment strategies.

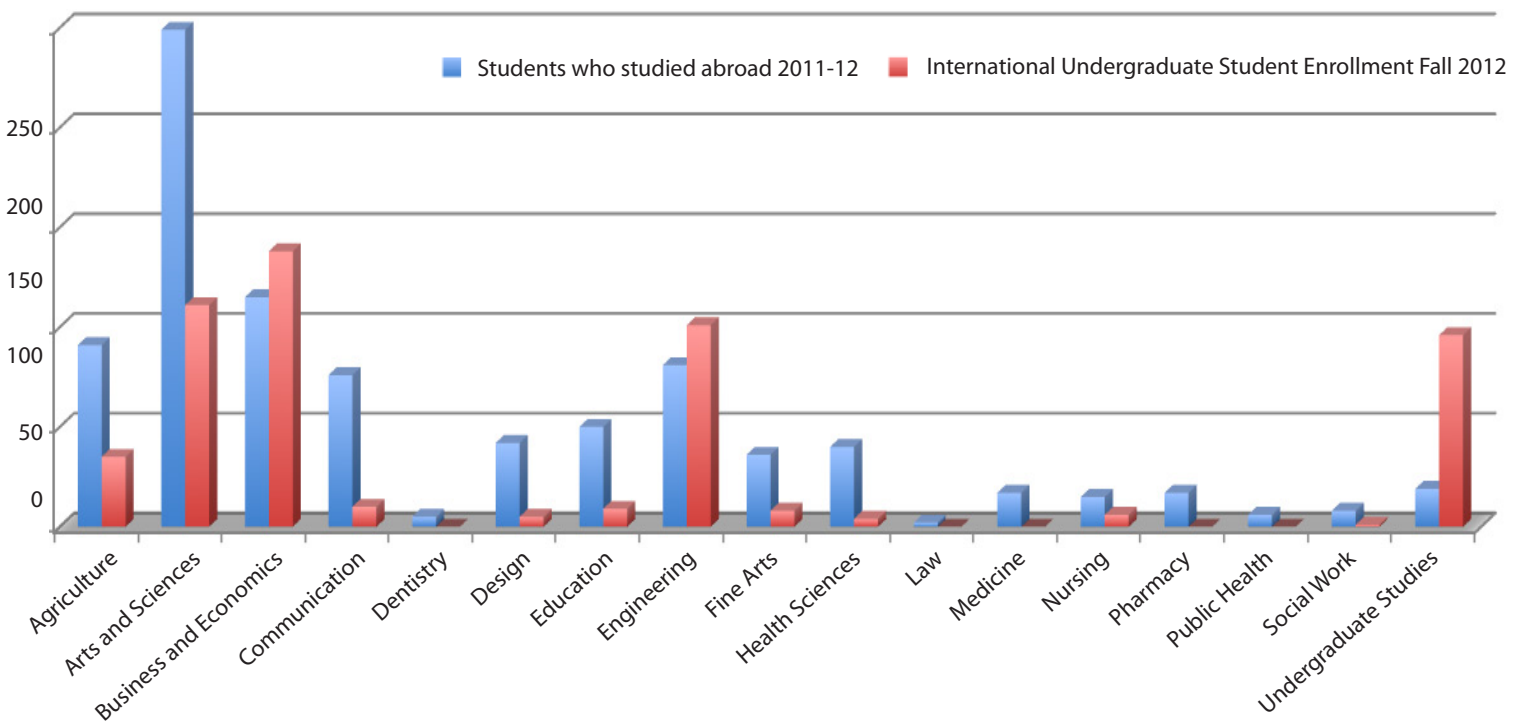
Going - Education Abroad

Tony Ogden, director of Education Abroad, attributes their increased enrollment to the diversity and quality of faculty-led programs, "Education Abroad programs designed and led by UK faculty closely aligns with UK's curriculum in a way that programs offered by third parties cannot. Students are also more likely to participate in a faculty-led program because they know the program will compliment their program of study, and they want to travel with their professors and fellow students, not in the company of strangers."

Education Abroad will continue its growth by expanding education abroad opportunities to include study abroad, research abroad, intern abroad, teach abroad and service abroad opportunities.

Abby Hollander, assistant director of education abroad, hopes to increase interest in education abroad throughout the university. "We hope to provide students in all of UK's colleges with international experiences that will help them broaden their intercultural competence, scholarship and professional opportunities worldwide."

Students Coming and Going at UK



UK Engineering Students Bring Renewable Energy Technology to Africa

By Denise Brazzell

While Americans may complain about fuel prices, the availability and access to transportation fuel is still something that most can take for granted. Several University of Kentucky College of Engineering students from the Paducah campus recently learned this is not necessarily so in other areas of the world.

Jeffery Seay, assistant professor of chemical and materials engineering at the UK Paducah campus, led seven UK Paducah students in a design project to develop low-cost, environmentally friendly technologies to produce biodiesel for rural villagers in Cameroon, Africa. Seay and the students worked with the African Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology (ACREST) to design the process using resources and materials readily available in Cameroon. A 10-day trip to Bangang, Cameroon to work with the local villagers in implementing and refining the design was the culmination of the year-long project.

"To say the trip was eventful is an understatement," Seay said. "After over 18 hours of flying, our bus ride to the village of Bangang was the students' introduction to transportation difficulties in the developing world. The bus could not go up the muddy hillside road, so at about 10 p.m. we had to carry everything we brought three miles up the hillside in the pouring-down rain. It took us more than two hours to walk to the village."

The trip got better. Working with ACREST technicians, the group implemented their reactor design. The principle behind the design, Seay said, was to construct the biodiesel processor for less than \$100 in U.S. currency, and to use construction and processing methods easily explained to people with little or no formal education. In addition, the students were charged with ensuring the materials used were readily available to locals. With old oil drums, car parts and scrap metal, the students constructed a processor that



UK Paducah engineering students work with local villagers in Cameroon, Africa, to build a biodiesel processor.

used wood or charcoal as heat.

Chris Sterrie, a senior mechanical engineering student from Paducah, worked on the processor. "The first thing we discovered is that the truth about engineering is being able to think outside the box. It isn't that our basic design changed, it's more that we learned how to change the design to adapt to what we had," he said.

Sterrie and Bradley Butler, another senior mechanical engineering student from Paducah, were able to change their design to fit what was available and make the processor work.

"That first batch of biodiesel — and it was less than a gallon — was like looking at gold," Butler said. "A few days after we got home, I was at a gas station and a big truck pulled in and filled up with diesel. I don't think I'll ever look at things like that the same."

Seay said that was an important lesson for the students. "Normally engineers would look to new technologies for a design project. What our students had to learn was how to use older technologies due to the lack of modern infrastructure."

Seay noted that, while Bangang has approximately 200 homes, ACREST

is able to provide low-cost electricity to only 15 of those. He explained that in pre-industrial times, ethanol, a key ingredient to produce biodiesel, was recovered from wood during the process of making charcoal. This method is still widely practiced in the developing world. In addition to methanol and vegetable oil, the other chemicals required can be extracted from wood ash, which is still used in developing countries to produce soap. Utilizing these methods the students were able to create an innovative, low-cost biodiesel processor for the village.

Christina Willett, a chemical engineering junior from Gilbertsville, Ky., said she did not realize the impact her career choice could make. "Seeing first-hand what engineering has done — and can do — for our world made a huge impression on me," she said.

The UK College of Engineering in Paducah offers area students the opportunity to achieve a UK four-year Bachelor of Science degree in chemical or mechanical engineering. Working in partnership with WKCTC and Murray State, UK Paducah students take all classes on the UK Paducah Campus. The program has graduated more than 140 engineers since its beginning in 1997. ■

Perfect Pitch: Omani students discuss how CESL is helping them adjust

Story by Robin Roenker / Photo by Shaun Ring

On campus for only four months, Omani student Abdul Majeed Al-Hashmi is already making the most of his time at the University of Kentucky. In addition to perfecting his already strong English in intensive 20-hour-per-week coursework at UK's Center for English as a Second Language (CESL) in the College of Arts & Sciences, he's also found time to pursue a new passion: opera singing.

"I love it," said Al-Hashmi, a native of a small village called Adam in central Oman.

"In my country, I cannot sing opera, but here I take lessons. [In Oman] we have a very strict, traditional culture. But we came to America, and everything is changed now."

"We love our country and our culture, but here, you can do what you want to do," added fellow CESL classmate Hussein Al-Lawati, a native of Oman's capital city of Muscat.

A New Partnership

Al-Hashmi and Al-Lawati are just two among roughly 70 Omani students to have arrived on UK's campus since mid-October. They represent the first wave of a partnership between the University of Kentucky and the Omani Ministry of Higher Education, which plans to award some 2,500 scholarships to graduating Omani high school students to study in the United States over the next five years. (Other U.S. universities hosting Omani scholarship students include Washington State University, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Ohio University, Oregon State University, and the University of Minnesota.)

Oman, situated on the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula, and bordered by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, is an Arabic-speaking nation, though students there are required to have English instruction in grades 1-12, Al-Hashmi and Al-Lawati said.

Therefore, most of the students arrived



Abdul Majeed Al-Hashmi practicing opera singing with his friends Hussein Al-Lawah and Tarik Al-Kharusi.

on campus with at least an advanced-beginner to intermediate grasp of English, said Tom Clayton, a professor in UK's English Department and Center for English as a Second Language. Still, they needed a chance to improve and perfect their English speaking, reading, and writing skills before beginning their undergraduate courses of study at UK.

CESL's new "conditional admission" policy—in which international students who are academically qualified are admitted to a UK degree program pursuant to their completion of the ESL program—is giving the Omani students that opportunity.

Once the students work their way through the five levels of the ESL program, they will be granted full admittance to UK and will be allowed to begin their programs of study. Most of the 70 Omani students already at UK, all 17- and 18-year-olds, plan to major in areas of engineering or business and economics.

"Typically, a highly motivated student will advance from one level [of the ESL coursework] to the next in one eight-week period. So, they can move through our entire series of levels through the course of one academic year and one summer term," Clayton said. "We expect that after one academic year, most of the Omani students will be ready for

matriculation in their degree programs." While the Omani students are eager to begin their engineering and business studies, for now they're enjoying the opportunity to refine their English-language skills, they said.

"Everyday, we have practice in reading, listening, grammar, and speaking," Al-Hashmi said. "Our teachers in the CESL are very good. They bring in items from outside of class to teach us about American culture, American foods, American idioms. They try to make it interesting for us."

Students in the ESL program have classes for four hours a day, five days a week. Several have opted to live on campus in Smith Hall, UK's Global Village living-learning community, allowing them a chance to practice their English 24/7. The immersion into American English, including the slang and idioms used most frequently by American college students—as opposed to the formal, British English they had been taught at home—has been interesting, but also challenging, said Al-Lawati.

Cultural Exchange

For many of the Omani students, the chance to study at an American university—and all the opportunities they felt that would bring—was simply too good to pass up.

Continued on next page

Perfect Pitch (continued)

“The top universities in the world are from the USA. If you have English, and you study in the United States, you can return home and have many opportunities,” Al-Hashmi said, noting that in Oman, there is only one university, located in the capital city of Muscat.

Omani student Tarik Al-Kharusi, a native of Suwaq, loves fixing and repairing things, and had grown up dreaming of studying mechanical engineering at an American university. Even so, when the scholarship arrived, the thought of leaving his home and his parents worried him.

“Before I came to the U.S., I think, ‘How can I live in the U.S.? How can I go outside of my country and leave my parents and my culture?’ Sometimes people only see on TV, things about American

government making war everywhere. But now I see that’s not true. The people here are so friendly.”

“Our thoughts [about the U.S.] have changed,” agreed Al-Lawati.

That type of positive cultural exchange between the university’s American students and its international ones is precisely the goal of UK’s strategic plan for internationalization, which was enacted three years ago, said Susan Carvalho, UK’s Associate Provost for International Affairs.

“We established this plan to increase our number of international undergraduates on campus, to bring in more international curriculum, to send more UK students for study abroad, and to bring a greater visibility to our global research,” Carvalho said.

The successful long-term partnership with Oman is just one of many that Carvalho’s office is hoping to build.

“One of our goals for having increased numbers of international students on campus is to have global conversations in every undergraduate classroom. We want our UK students to be able to have international friends and be world citizens who are comfortable with and respectful of cultural differences,” Carvalho said.

Tina Durbin, assistant director and lecturer with UK’s CESL program, is teaching several of the Omani students in her ESL Level 3 class this term, and she expressed the same idea this way: “Exchanges between countries is awesome, but an exchange of ideas between students is even better.” ■

Shoulder to Shoulder Global Celebrates Fifth Anniversary of Centro Médico

By Sarah Geegan, Craig Borie

Shoulder to Shoulder Global’s May 2012 brigade to Ecuador marked the fifth anniversary of the Centro Médico Hombro a Hombro program in Santo Domingo, Ecuador. Students, faculty and staff from the UK College of Health Sciences, UK College of Arts and Sciences and Transylvania University as well as members of the community attended to 704 patients at the Centro Médico and partnering communities.

Special activities for the fifth anniversary included a special celebration with community members and key partners to commemorate the occasion. Dr. Tom Young from the Department of Pediatrics in the UK College of Medicine and Dr. Claudia Hopenhayn from the Department of Epidemiology in the UK College of Public Health were recognized for Shoulder to Shoulder Global’s continuing efforts to improve the welfare of poor communities, while developing the skills of students, faculty and staff.



A member of the Shoulder to Shoulder Global/Alternative Service Break to Ecuador learns traditional ways of the Tsáchila people in Santo Domingo, Ecuador

Brigade evening events included daily group discussions to reflect on the challenges and rewards of the experience. Topics ranged from clinical, cultural to personal experiences, while brigade members worked together as an inter-professional team to solve field-related issues.

“Being part of an inter-professional

team in a limited-resource setting demonstrated how important each team member’s skills were to improving the health and well-being of an entire community,” Craig Borie, program coordinator for the UK chapter of Shoulder to Shoulder Global, said. “With such a high level of interdependence required for success, the level of respect and camaraderie within the group was truly

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UK Among Universities Fighting World Hunger

By Sarah Geegan, Amanda Osborne

The University of Kentucky, in collaboration with 150 other institutions across the nation, is leading an effort to combat world hunger.

Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH), a partnership program initiated by Auburn University and the UN World Food Programme, was founded to develop and implement action agendas for students and faculty across the globe. The program aims to increase hunger awareness, fundraising, advocacy and academic initiatives to create a leading university community fully engaged in the effort to eliminate world hunger.

The University of Kentucky became involved with UFWH in 2005, when a group of faculty and students attended the first Hunger Summit, a weekend of hunger education and leadership development. Since then, UK has broadly integrated hunger issues into courses and established a school feeding program at the Kentucky Academy Kindergarten in Adjeikrom, Ghana.

Janet Mullins is one of the faculty members who initiated UK's partnership with UFWH. An associate extension professor in Dietetics and Human Nutrition, part of the School of Human Environmental Sciences within the College of Agriculture, Mullins said the program provides both service and educational opportunities for students.

"This is a UK project involving faculty, students, and volunteers," Mullins said. "Students help raise funds to support the feeding program, conduct research and learn how to be better global citizens."

In June, Mullins took a graduate student, her husband and son, and two Kentucky food service directors to Ghana for their third trip to support the school lunch program that Kentucky Academy Kindergarten set up in Janu-



Kentucky School Nutrition Association members with UK Graduate Student Monica Fowler learning from the school cooks at the Kentucky Academy Kindergarten in Adjeikrom, Ghana.

ary 2011. The Kentucky Academy Kindergarten is sponsored by the School of Human Environmental Sciences.

UK students have been fundraising for the Ghana trip since World Food Day, Oct. 16. The goals for this trip included building a drip irrigation system, allowing food to be grown throughout the year, and collecting qualitative research data about the impact the school lunch program has on student learning, attendance and behavior.

"School meals have been shown to increase student attendance, especially by girls, and help communities make better use of their limited food resources," Mullins said.

Support from the Kentucky School Nutrition Association provided funds for the drip irrigation equipment and a gas stove, which will save time and money while providing a healthier cooking environment. Newly approved aid from the Ghanaian government that has initiated a school feeding program for

the primary school in Adjeikrom, along with assistance from the sponsors in Kentucky, has helped to meet the goals of the mission in Ghana.

"Our UK participation in Universities Fighting World Hunger has enriched student education by providing a meaningful international learning opportunity," Mullins said. "While many students study abroad, incorporating a focus on hunger helps them to become better global citizens."

Mullins added that the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service Agents and Kentucky school food service directors work daily to increase access to healthy foods for all Kentuckians.

"By working together on this international project, it gives us all a greater appreciation of how fortunate we are to live in the United States," Mullins said.

To learn more about UK's involvement in Universities Fighting World Hunger, contact Janet Mullins at 859-257-1812. ■

Cao Wei Unites CUMT and UK

By Lauren Kamas

In 2005, the University of Kentucky College of Engineering formed a partnership with China University of Mining and Technology (CUMT). The goal of this cooperation was to offer a program of exchange for students and staff on both sides that would be mutually beneficial. September marks the seventh anniversary of this partnership, which continues to grow and has been home to nearly 30 students studying in the various fields of engineering, as well as Dr. Cao Wei, an associate professor and director of graduate studies at CUMT.

Wei, a native of Beijing, China, has earned a bachelor's degree in mining engineering, a master's in management engineering and a Ph.D. in business administration. He credits his extensive schooling, proficiency in English and interest in student welfare as key reasons for his nomination by CUMT to serve as a liaison between the two universities. Wei's role at UK mainly consists of ensuring the program's progress, but he also helps new students to the program become acclimated to life in Kentucky.

"This exchange program acts as an open door to Chinese students' education abroad. Students study for two years at CUMT before coming to UK. Once here they continue on with their coursework in engineering, but also acquire a university experience that differs from that of CUMT," said Wei.

The well-being of students both inside and outside of the classroom has been of particular interest to Wei throughout his career, as he has served as a student mentor for 18 years. Wei noted that he and many of the exchange students find aspects of student life at UK to be fascinating.

Receiving emails from President Caplouto addressing the UK community as a whole was a new experience for Wei, and he found this open channel of communication to be a good method of



Cao Wei teaching a class at the China University of Mining and Technology (CUMT).

management. Wei also enjoyed learning about many student organizations present on campus, finding fraternities and sororities the most interesting, since they do not exist at Chinese universities. He also commented positively on the study habits of UK students and the encouragement they receive from professors to learn by doing.

Wei acts as a visible connection between UK and CUMT. An important duty of Wei's included the creation and maintenance of a database that allows both universities to stay in contact with the exchange students once their time at UK has ended. This tool also provides updates to the students' careers, along with useful information about the program's students. Wei says he will return to China with newfound knowledge, perspectives and an appreciation for his experiences at UK.

"In recent years, CUMT has strengthened international partnerships throughout the world establishing academic links with nearly 50 universities and research institutions. The Cooperative Education Agreement with UK's College of Engineering has been very productive for CUMT's engineering majors," said Wei.

"Among international exchange pro-

grams at UK, this one has proven to be most fruitful and continues to provide positive results. This program not only provides those from China who study here with great opportunities, but has also helped to diversify the student body within the College of Engineering," noted Professor G.T. Lineberry, associate dean for commonwealth and international programs.

As this program's success continues, Wei expressed great interest in expanding the collaboration to other areas of study, such as the Gatton College of Business and Economics. Although no formal arrangements have been made between CUMT and Gatton, there is possibility for a partnership in the future.

Adhering to the University of Kentucky Strategic Plan, the Cooperative Education Agreement between UK's College of Engineering and CUMT serves as a tactic to meet UK's goals and objectives. In particular, the program has been able to facilitate the enrollment of an increased number of international, high-ability students. It has also produced a global collaboration offering the educational advantages of diversity and inclusion. ■

Gatton Opens Doors for International Education

By Sarah Geegan

As university graduates face an increasingly global and internationally connected marketplace, the Gatton College of Business and Economics strives to equip students with necessary experiences for success. Brendan O'Farrell, international director in Gatton, is opening doors to make those experiences possible.

As international director, O'Farrell oversees the Gatton Global Scholars Program, a competitive program that combines immersive learning, leadership development opportunities and global perspectives for students with an interest in international business and leadership. O'Farrell also coordinates general education abroad efforts for the college.

"International experience is extremely beneficial for students seeking a career in business today," O'Farrell said. "But it's also valuable in many other areas — academically, professionally, personally. At Gatton we are committed to helping our students achieve these meaningful experiences."

This commitment involves providing an array of education abroad opportunities for students, tailored to different needs. While the Global Scholars Program requires students to spend an entire semester abroad, O'Farrell also coordinates shorter, faculty-led programs open to all of Gatton, which allow students without previous travel experience to "get their feet wet" before departing for a full semester.

In May 2012, O'Farrell led a group to Guayaquil, Ecuador, the country's financial capital, on a service-learning project. For two weeks they lived there with host families, accomplishing a two-fold goal of providing community service and gaining insight into international business.

"We worked with the only HIV/AIDS prevention organization of its kind in



O'Farrell and his students work with the HIV and AIDS prevention organization in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

the country, called Fundación Vida," O'Farrell said. "It was a great experience for us, especially to learn a lot about HIV and AIDS, and to be able to help the community out there. The students also gained a new perspective on intercultural sensitivity and cultural awareness from living with the host families."

The group also visited local businesses to see first-hand how international companies operate in Ecuador. O'Farrell organized guest-lectures from local business professors to talk about the economy and the trade of Ecuador as well.

"I was very pleased with the trip because a lot of times, I think, business students can tend to get wrapped up in business coursework and careers, but we also have a lot of students that are very interested in giving back to the community and scoring other opportunities," O'Farrell said. "After we got back, we discussed: 'did this make sense for business students?' The students and I all agreed that it is still really important

that we know about issues like HIV and AIDS that may be almost forgotten in our own back yard. It's important for business students to think about topical issues, whether it's poverty or AIDS or what have you."

O'Farrell was also recently awarded a Fulbright scholarship to spend two weeks in Germany, focusing on international education. He said the experience will enhance his ability to aid students.

"Any time I have the opportunity to go and learn about the international systems and higher education systems, it helps me come back and advise students better, so that I can set expectations for them more clearly and reasonably before they go and study abroad," O'Farrell said. "Currently we have one of our bilateral exchange agreements in Gatton with WHU, the best business school in Germany. We send students to Germany a lot, so it's good for me to be even more familiar with it." ■

Shoulder to Shoulder Global (continued from pg. 7)

amazing and inspiring.”

Students worked directly with faculty to help improve the health of poverty-ridden communities while gaining valuable practical experience.

“In addition to being able to work with accomplished professionals, students learned the importance of flexibility and collaboration, while having the opportunity to reflect on their own culture, sometimes noticing pieces of it for the first time,” Borie said.

To prepare for the experience, many brigade participants had previously enrolled in a credit-bearing course titled “Inter-professional Teamwork in Global Health.” Student participants discussed topics such as cultural competency, ethics in global health brigade work and inter-professional collaboration.



Faculty, staff and students in front of the Centro Médico Hombro a Hombro, May 2012

Shoulder to Shoulder Global’s next brigade will arrive in Ecuador on Aug. 3 for what promises to be another transformative opportunity to learn and help serve the underserved of Ecuador.

For more information please visit the STSG website: www.stsglobal.com ■

Global Classroom Connections (continued from pg. 2)

students in a graduate course at the University of Delhi will all do two readings in common: one book on Appalachia and one book on the Himalayan region.”

Kingsolver said that she and Channa will each give background lectures to the classes. Channa plans to record her lecture in the fall while visiting UK for a conference that the UK Appalachian Center is planning.

“I will be visiting her classroom next spring, and the students will discuss the readings with each other by Skype,” Kingsolver said.

Another Global Classroom Connections will link SOC 343 and a course at Sun Yat-Sen University in China. Taught by Thomas Janoski of the Department of Sociology, the course will focus on the theme of civil society in China and the U.S.

History professor Kathi Kern will provide a link between HIS 405 and a similar course at Sourbonne Nouvelle in France, explaining the history of American women after 1900.

Janice Fernheimer of the Department of English will partner with Al-Qods University in Palestine. Combining ENG 440 and 441 with a similar course at the partner institution, the class will explore the representations of the Eastern Mediterranean area and the Holy Land, focusing especially on travel writing and literature.

Also from the Department of English, Randall Roorda will lead a course linking ENG/WRD 401 and a course at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. Students will study in detail the regional landscapes and the natural and cultural histories of Kentucky and Moravia.

Ted Schatzki, senior associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, said the program will benefit students in multiple ways.

“By interacting with students in other countries through discussions, presentations and joint projects, our students will become a little more knowledgeable about the world and a bit more capable of negotiating differences,” Schatzki said. “It is also hoped that fac-

ulty will be energized to pursue deeper and more extensive connections between UK and institutions in other countries.”

The courses participating in the program will take advantage of synchronous and asynchronous technologies such as videoconferencing, social media, wikis and blogs.

The college will support the development of these links through course development funding, technical assistance and travel expenses that allow UK faculty to meet with their partner instructors to plan the links. CELT and the College of Arts and Sciences’ Hive will provide technical support for all links.

The program has been developed in collaboration with the associate provost for International Programs, the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT), and the UK College of Arts and Sciences to promote international learning and experiences through the use of contemporary technology. ■

International Hospitality Program Calls for Hosts

By Sarah Geegan

Approximately 1,640 students from more than 100 countries enroll as international students at the University of Kentucky each year. As assimilating into a new culture presents a challenge for many of them, the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) in the Office of International Affairs has a program to connect them with Lexington hospitality.

The International Hospitality Program (IHP) matches international students with volunteer hosts and host families, based on common interests or hobbies for a calendar year. Though students do not live with their hosts, the program aims to provide international students with culturally rich experiences outside the classroom. Hosts introduce the students to Lexington and include them in activities, such as sports events, sightseeing, concerts, movies, hiking and shopping. More hosts are needed for the upcoming school year.

The program requires no financial obligation — just the time commitment of meeting with the students.

Elif Bengu, international student affairs adviser within the Office of International Affairs, said the program helps tremendously to ease international students into American ways of life.

“Getting to experience the culture in their time away from books and labs can really enrich students’ perception of the value of studying in the U.S.,” Bengu said. “Our goal is to get students off campus and into homes so they can have a different impression of American life than ones they get in movies and on TV.”



Volunteers with the International Hospitality Program took new international students on a tour of Old Friends Farm to introduce them to Kentucky’s equestrian culture, and its retired heroes.

Bengu said that the program often produces life-long friendships among students and hosts.

“The benefits aren’t limited to the students,” Bengu said. “The program is an excellent opportunity for cultural exchange. Hosts get to ‘travel’ without ever leaving Lexington, as students share with them the culture and foods of their own homes.”

Most students and hosts are paired at the beginning of each semester — early September and January. Hosts often meet students at the airport. IHP also offers various group activities for hosts and their students throughout the year, such as ice cream socials, an IHP/Rotary picnic, celebrations of American holidays and shopping trips.

ISSS supports more than 1,500 international students and scholars attending the University of Kentucky by assisting with immigration advising and assisting with travel documents; permission to work; transfers and extensions of stay; social programs and activities that help students learn about life on campus; opportunities for community involvement; help with language translation; and teaching opportunities in K-12 classrooms through the International Classroom Program

For more information on becoming a host, contact Mary Lynne Vickers, host development chair, at (859) 361-9603 or Judy Phillips at (859) 277-2224. ■

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